

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15680 201127Z

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ACTION VO-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1274

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15680

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS FR SW VS PINT (NGO CONG DUC)

SUBJ: NIV APPLICATION FOR NGO CONG DUC

REF: SAIGON 14915

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO GRANT A VISA TO MR DUC WILL BE MADE SOON. IF THAT IS SO, WE TRUST THE MATTER WILL NOT BE TREATED SIMPLY AS A TECHNICAL QUESTION WITH RESPONSIBILITY TO BE ASSUMED SOLELY BY THE VISA OFFICE. THE GVN WOULD OF COURSE NOT FAVOR DUC'S TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES AND THEY HAVE OPPOSED IT WHEN THE ISSUE AROSE BEFORE. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE GVN IS OPPOSED IS NOT IN OUR VIEW THE DECISIVE CONSIDERATION. WHAT IS DECISIVE (APART FROM DUC'S HISTORY AS HAVING INCITED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY IN VIETNAM) IS THAT HIS ENTRY WOULD CLEARLY BE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES WHICH ARE PREJUDICIAL TO THE US NATIONAL INTEREST. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE FACE UP TO OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN PROTECTING THAT INTEREST EVEN IF THE DECISION TO DENY A VISA TO MR DUC SHOULD INVOLVE SOME TEMPORARY DISCOMFORT AND EVOKE CRITICISM FROM THE NORMAL SMALL BUT VOCAL GROUPS OF OPPONENTS OF OUR VIETNAM POLICY.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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